(b) if so, what are the details of the profits made as compared to 1984;

(c) what steps Government have taken during the year 1985 to improve the efficiency and also profitability of the banks; and

(d) what are the names of the banks which have achieved good working results during the said year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) The final accounts of the 28 public sector banks for the year 1985 are at various stages of finalisation. Only after these accounts are finalised, it will be possible to indicate the actual profits earned by them during the year 1985 or a comparison of the same with the published profits for the year 1984. A quick estimate of the working results of the 28 public sector banks indicates that the published profits might go up by about 32 per cent in 1985 as compared to the published profits for the year 1984.

Government and Reserve Bank have taken a number of steps in 1985 for improving customer service and thereby improving the efficiency of banks. A number of specific steps have also been taken to improve the profitability of banks which include a better return on cash reserves kept with the Reserve Bank of India, higher rate of interest on food credit, the benefit of non-deduction of tax at source on interest on Government securities held by nationalised banks, allocation of additional capital to nationalised banks improved operational efficiency of the banks etc.

Illegal import of wool tops

*37. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite ban on the import of wool tops imposed by Government in August, 1986 the practice of illegally importing wool tops for domestic consumption by the importers is continuing and that some such cases have recently come to light; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the *modus operandi* of the importers and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) Wool tops are in the restricted list (App. 2B of 1985—88 Policy) and no import licences for the same are being granted.

Import of wool tops was permitted against Replenishment (REP) and Duty Free Advance licence upto 9-8-1984. After this date import of wool tops is not being allowed even against REP & Advance licence.

A newspaper report alleging that import of wool tops has been made in the garb of wool waste has come to notice. Facts are being ascertained from the Customs Authorities.

Rise in the prices of atta, maida and suzi

*38. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently increased the prices of Atta, Maida and Suzi; and